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(SPIES)

Lt. Col.

Runge, YEGVENIY, YEGENEICH

WASHINGTON--LT. COL. YEGVENIY YEGENEICH RUNGE, THE LATEST SOVIET INTELLIGENCE OFFICER TO DEFECT TO THE WEST, IS BELIEVED TO BE IN THE WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK AREAS WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILD.

THE FORMER AGENT OF THE KGB, OR SOVIET SECRET SERVICE, PROBABLY HAS BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR ABOUT A WEEK UNDERGOING INTERROGATION BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AT A SECRET HIDEAWAY, IT WAS LEARNED AUTHORITATIVELY TUESDAY.

IT APPEARS THAT RUNGE WAS FLOWN TO THE U.S. SHORTLY AFTER HE ASKED ASYLUM OF AMERICAN AUTHORITIES IN WEST GERMANY ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO. RELIABLE SOURCES SAID FIVE PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AS ALLEGED SOVIET SPIES IN GERMANY AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION FURNISHED BY RUNGE.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE CASE WERE EXPECTED TO BE MADE PUBLIC BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

U.S. OFFICIALS REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RUNGE'S DEFECTION TO WESTERN INTELLIGENCE. BUT THERE WERE SIGNS THAT HE HAD DIVULGED NOTHING, AT LEAST IN INITIAL QUESTIONING, ABOUT SOVIET SPYING ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE FBI HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN THE RUNGE CASE. PRESUMABLY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ADVISED HAD THE CIA HEARD ANYTHING DIRECTLY AFFECTING INTERNAL NATIONAL SECURITY.

IN KARLSRUHE, WEST GERMANY, PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN TO PREVENT FURTHER SUICIDES AMONG THE THREE PERSONS STILL JAILED AS AN APPARENT RESULT OF RUNGE'S REVELATIONS. ONE OF THE SUSPECTED AGENTS, MRS. LEONORE SUTTERLIN, HANGED HERSELF SUNDAY IN HER PRISON CELL.

JAILERS CHECKED ON THE CAPTIVES THROUGH PEEPHOLES AT LEAST ONCE AN HOUR, RESTRICTED VISITORS AND REMOVED ANY PERSONAL EFFECTS THAT MIGHT BE USED IN A SUICIDE ATTEMPT.

10/17--DP514PED

CSDO has a copy.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.

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